

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 3, 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: There was limited precipitation across Montana for the week ending April 3, 2016, along with initially warm temperatures. Reporters across the State noted that while winter wheat and pastures were greening, moisture was needed soon to avoid rapid decline in their conditions. Producers in many areas of the State were able to begin spring fieldwork and seeding with 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork compared with 3.3 days the previous year. Producers began seeding barley, oats, and spring wheat with 11 percent of barley, 2 percent of oats, and 3 percent of spring wheat seeded by the week's end. Livestock producers have enjoyed a largely mild birthing season with very few deaths.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	11	3	3	5
Oats				
Planted	2	--	--	2
Spring Wheat				
Planted	3	--	1	2
Winter Wheat				
Breaking dormancy	32	NA	53	NA
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed	40	13	40	52
Receiving supplemental feed	87	96	92	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed	30	11	31	39
Receiving supplemental feed	91	95	90	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.1	NA	3.3	2.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	25	8	9
Short.....	33	28	21	18
Adequate.....	50	47	58	59
Surplus.....	--	--	13	14
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	20	23	6	9
Short.....	39	41	21	19
Adequate.....	39	36	53	61
Surplus.....	2	--	20	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	70	72	72	55
Difficult.....	12	9	20	20
Closed.....	18	19	8	25
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	12	NA	5	8
Poor.....	22	NA	20	23
Fair.....	45	NA	44	40
Good.....	19	NA	30	27
Excellent.....	2	NA	1	2
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	--	1	2	1
Poor.....	4	4	6	6
Fair.....	40	46	31	36
Good.....	53	46	33	46
Excellent.....	3	3	28	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/MT_Weather_04032016.pdf